

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: UK-Guatemalan negotiations on Belize

REF: GUATEMALA A-200, November 1974

1. FERNANDO SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR BELIZE AFFAIRS FONOFF, TOLD EMBOFF THURSDAY THAT LONG-PROMISED RESUMPTION OF SUBSTANTIVE UK-Guatemalan talks on Belize would begin about February 20 in Bermuda. GOG apparently awaiting final decision from UK on date.

2. SANCHEZ SAID THIS WOULD BE FIRST OF SERIES OF MEETINGS, AND WOULD BE QTE VERY GENERAL MEETING TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES OF UNDERSTANDING AND HOPEFULLY TO REDUCE THEM TO ONE OR TWO AND GO ON FROM THERE UNQTE. HE SAID UK DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY UN PERMREP SIR IVOR RICHARD. GUATEMALA DEL WILL INCLUDE SANCHEZ; DR. LUIS AYCINENA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND TREATIES; AND EX-FONMINS JORGE SKINNER-KLEE AND ROBERTO HERRERA. HE COMMENTED WRYLY THAT THERE WERE "SO MANY PRIMA DONNAS ON DELEGATION THAT IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DIFFICULT SAY WHO WOULD HEAD IT," BUT ADDED THAT SAME

GROUP HAD BEEN WORKING ON BELIZE PROBLEM FOR SO LONG
THAT THEY WORKED TOGETHER WELL WITHOUT FORMAL LEADERSHIP.

3. ALTHOUGH FACT THAT GUATEMALA AND UK HAVE AGREED TO
RESUME TALKS IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, SANCHEZ SAID BRITISH
HAD ASKED THAT TIME, PLACE AND FACT OF BERMUDA MEETING
BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS GOG
INTENTION KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS, BUT HE
STRESSED THAT INFORMATION MUST BE CLOSELY HELD AND OUR
AWARENESS OF MEETING NOT DISCUSSED OUTSIDE USG,
PARTICULARLY WITH BRITISH.
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